El Paso County - 210th District Court

Filed 5/5/2017 3:44:06 PM

Norma Favela Barceleau

District Clerk

El Paso County

2017DCV1553

140.		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
JUDITH WALLEN,	. §	IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF
DL-1-4-100	§	
Plaintiff,	8 8	
vs	§	
	§	
LINCOLN FINANCIAL DISTRIBUTORS, INC.	§	EL PASO COUNTY, TEXAS
D/B/A LINCOLN FIANCIAL GROUP,	§	
	§	
Defendant.	§	JUDICIAL DISTRICT

PLAINTIFF'S ORIGINAL PETITION & REQUESTS FOR DISCLOSURE

Plaintiff, JUDITH WALLEN, files this original petition.

1. Discovery is intended to be conducted under Level 2.

I. JURISDICTION & VENUE

- 2. The Court has jurisdiction over the lawsuit because the amount in controversy exceeds this Court's minimum jurisdictional requirements. Plaintiff seeks damages of more than \$1,000,000.00.
 - 3. Venue is proper in El Paso County under Texas Civil Practice & Remedies Code §15.002 because almost all of the events giving rise to the claim occurred in El Paso County.

II. PARTIES

- 4. Plaintiff, JUDITH WALLEN ("Mrs. Wallen"), is a resident of El Paso County, Texas. The last three digits of her Texas Driver's License are 639 and the last three digits of her Social Security Number are 397.
- Defendant, LINCOLN FINANCIAL DISTRIBUTORS, INC. D/B/A LINCOLN
 FINANCIAL GROUP ("Lincoln"), is an Indiana corporation licensed to do business in Texas. It



can be served with process by serving its registered agent, Corporation Service Company, at 211 E. 7th Street, Suite 620, Austin, Texas 78701-3218.

III. FACTS

- 6. Jerry L. Wallen ("Mr. Wallen"), the deceased husband of Plaintiff, Judith Wallen, was the insured under Lincoln life insurance policy number T105766760 in the amount of \$1,000,000.00. In 2015, the policy lapsed. Based on information and belief, while still within either the state-mandated grace period or Lincoln's standard and customary grace period, Mr. Wallen sent the required premium payment of \$326.91. Lincoln deposited the payment.
- 7. Lincoln did not reinstate the policy as is customarily done if an insured makes the required premium payment during the grace period. Instead, on September 2, 2015, Lincoln advised Mr. Wallen that his payment had been received but that "our acceptance of this payment does not currently provide you with any insurance coverage under this policy."
- 8. On September 4, 2015, Lincoln sent another letter to Mr. Wallen advising that certain information would have to be received for the underwriting process to continue. Mr. Wallen died suddenly from a heart attack on September 22, 2015. Mrs. Wallen filed a claim to collect the \$1,000,000.00 life insurance policy that her husband, shortly before his death, had told her was in effect. However, Lincoln refused payment, claiming the life insurance policy had lapsed and had not been reinstated. Lincoln did not return Mr. Wallen's premium payment of \$326.91 until after he had died.

IV. CAUSES OF ACTION

Count 1 - Breach of the Duty of Good Faith and Fair Dealing

9. Plaintiff hereby incorporates by reference the allegations contained in paragraphs 1 through 8 above as though fully set forth herein.

- 10. Mr. Wallen was the Owner and Mrs. Wallen the beneficiary under an insurance contract sold by Lincoln, which gave rise to a duty of good faith and fair dealing.
- 11. Lincoln breached its duties by not reinstating the Policy when Lincoln knew or should have known that there was no reasonable basis for not reinstating the policy.
 - 12. The breach of duty by Lincoln proximately caused injury to Plaintiff.
- 13. Plaintiff seeks unliquidated damages within the jurisdictional limits of this Court from Defendant.

Count 2 - Breach of Contract

- 14. Plaintiff hereby incorporates by reference the allegations contained in paragraphs 1 through 8 above as though fully set forth herein.
- 15. Mr. Wallen contracted for the Policy with Lincoln for the benefit of his wife, Mrs. Wallen. Lincoln failed to perform its contract as agreed. Lincoln unilaterally refused to reinstate the Policy without justification despite Plaintiff's payment of the premium Lincoln advised was required for reinstatement of the Policy.
- 16. The actions of Lincoln constitute a breach of contract, for which Plaintiff now seeks actual damages.

Count 3 - Promissory Estoppel

- 17. Plaintiff hereby incorporates by reference the allegations contained in paragraphs 1 through 8 above as though fully set forth herein.
- 18. Lincoln routinely ignored "lapse dates" and deadlines for payment. In fact, it would have special reinstatement offers whereby if the full premium was paid, the reinstatement was effective when the premium was received by the company. By its habit of business, its acts and its custom not to require prompt payment, Lincoln induced an honest belief in the mind of Mr. Wallen that strict compliance with a stipulation for punctual payment of premiums would not be insisted

upon. Therefore, Lincoln waived the right to not reinstate the policy in 2015 when Mr. Wallen did exactly what he was supposed to do to reinstate the policy.

- 19. Mr. Wallen reasonably and substantially relied on the previous acts of Lincoln to both his and Mrs. Wallen's detriment.
 - 20. Mr. Wallen's reliance on the previous acts was foreseeable by Lincoln.
 - 21. Injustice can be avoided only by enforcing Lincoln's contractual obligations.
- 22. Plaintiff seeks unliquidated damages within the jurisdictional limits of this Court from Lincoln.

Count 4 - Declaratory Judgment

- 23. Pursuant to Texas Civil Practices and Remedies Code Chapter 37, Plaintiff requests this Court to declare her rights and status with respect to the Policy.
- 24. Plaintiff is entitled to recover attorney's fees incurred in the prosecution of this matter. Tex. Civ. Prac. & Rem. Code §37.009.

V. PUNITIVE DAMAGES

- 25. Lincoln's actions were intentional, knowing and fraudulent, and involved such an extreme degree of risk and disregard for Plaintiff as to constitute malice resulting in injury and harm to Plaintiff. Lincoln's acts and omissions as alleged in this Petition were willful. Plaintiff is entitled to damages, both past and future, and exemplary and punitive damages from Defendant.
 - 26. Defendant acted in bad faith to the detriment of Plaintiff.
- 27. Plaintiff requests that damages, punitive damages, pre-judgment interest and costs of Court be awarded to Plaintiff against Defendant.

VI. ATTORNEY'S FEES AND COSTS

28. As a result of the wrongful acts of Defendant and the misrepresentations of Defendant as set out herein, Plaintiff was required to retain the undersigned counsel to protect

Plaintiff's interests and has agreed to pay reasonable and necessary attorney's fees and costs to said counsel. Plaintiff is entitled to recover reasonable attorney's fees and costs under her claim for breach of contract and the other causes of action that allow direct or indirect recovery of attorney's fees and costs.

VII. JURY DEMAND

29. Plaintiff requests and demands a jury trial and the required fee is being tendered at the time of filing this petition.

VIII. REQUEST FOR DISCLOSURE

30. Under Texas Rule of Civil Procedure 194, Plaintiff requests that Lincoln disclose, within 50 days of the service of this request, the information or material described in Rule 194.2.

IX. PRAYER

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, Judith Wallen, respectfully requests that, after a jury trial on the merits, the Court award Plaintiff the following relief:

- 1. Direct and consequential damages against Defendant;
- 2. Exemplary damages as a result of the intentional, malicious and culpable behavior of Defendant;
- 3. Statutory and special damages as set forth above;
- 4. A declaratory judgment;
- 5. Attorney's fees;
- 6. Prejudgment and post judgment interest where allowed by law and in the maximum amounts permitted by law; and
- 7. All other relief, at law or in equity, to which Plaintiff may otherwise be entitled.

Respectfully submitted,

BELL ROSE

Chris Bell

Texas Bar No. 00783631

Email: Chris@BellRoseLaw.com

10000 Memorial Drive, Suite 750

Benjamin Harwood Rose Texas Bar No. 24079243

Email: Ben@BellRoseLaw.com

Houston, Texas 77024 Phone: 713-300-5158 Fax: 713-583-5524

Attorneys for Plaintiff

No		
JUDITH WALLEN,	§	IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF
	§	
Plaintiff,	§	
	§	
VS	§	
	§	
LINCOLN FINANCIAL DISTRIBUTORS, INC.	§	EL PASO COUNTY, TEXAS
D/B/A LINCOLN FIANCIAL GROUP,	§	
	§	
Defendant.	§	JUDICIAL DISTRICT

PLAINTIFF'S FIRST REQUESTS FOR PRODUCTION TO DEFENDANT

TO: Lincoln Financial Distributors, Inc. d/b/a Lincoln Financial Group by and through its registered agent, Corporation Service Company, 211 E. 7th Street, Suite 620, Austin, Texas 78701.

Pursuant to the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure, serves its First Requests for Production to Lincoln Financial Distributors, Inc. d/b/a Lincoln Financial Group ("Lincoln") concurrently with her original petition. Lincoln is required to serve a written response to Plaintiff at the offices of Bell Rose, located at 10000 Memorial Drive, Suite 750, Houston, Texas 77024, no later than fifty (50) days after receipt of this request.

Respectfully submitted,

BELL ROSE

Chris Bell

Texas Bar No. 00783631

Email: Chris@BellRoseLaw.com 10000 Memorial Drive, Suite 750

Chris Beb

Benjamin Harwood Rose Texas Bar No. 24079243

Email: Ben@BellRoseLaw.com

Houston, Texas 77024 Phone: 713-300-5158 Fax: 713-583-5524

Attorneys for Plaintiff

Instructions & Definitions

- 1. Unless otherwise indicated, the time period each request refers to is from January 1, 2012 to the present.
- 2. Unless otherwise indicated the term "incident" refers to the refusal to reinstate Jerry Wallen's life insurance policy identified in Plaintiff's original petition..
- 3. For each request, if the person responding or furnishing the information or documents is other than the person to whom these interrogatories are directed, please identify the person from whom the information contained in the response is obtained.
- 4. Please note that under Tex. R. Civ. P. 193.5, you are under a continuing duty to supplement your responses.

Definitions

The following definitions shall have the following meanings, unless the context requires otherwise.

1. The words "you" or "your" mean Defendant Lincoln., including agents, representatives, and all other persons acting in concert with it under its control, whether directly or indirectly, including any attorney.

- 2. "Documents" means all written, typed or printed matters, and all magnetic or other records or documentation of any kind or description (including, without limitation, letters, correspondence, telegrams, memoranda, notes, records, minutes, contracts, agreements, records or notations of telephone or personal conversations, conferences, interoffice communications, e-mail, microfilm, bulletins, circulars, pamphlets, photographs, facsimiles, invoices, tape recordings, computer printouts and work sheets), including drafts and copies not identical to the originals, all photographs and graphic matter, however produced or reproduced, and all compilations of data from which information can be obtained, and any and all writings, including those in the possession, custody or control of any and all present or former directors, officers, employees, consultants, accountants, attorneys or other agents, whether or not prepared by you.
- 3. "File" means any collection or group of documents maintained, held, stored, or used together including, without limitation, all collections of documents maintained, held, or stored in folders, notebooks, or other devices for separating or organizing documents.
- 4. "Person" means any natural person, corporation, firm, association, partnership, joint venture, proprietorship, governmental body, or any other organization, business or legal entity, and all predecessors or successors in interest.
- 5. "Relating to" and "relates to" mean, without limitation, embodying, mentioning, or concerning, directly or indirectly, the subject matter identified in the request.
- 6. "Concerning" means, in whole or in part, directly or indirectly, referring to, relating to, connected with, commenting on, responding to, showing, describing, analyzing, reflecting and constituting.
- 7. "Communication(s)" shall mean any documents, oral statements, conversations, meeting, or conference, formal or informal, at any time or place under any circumstances whatsoever, whereby information of any nature was stated, written, recorded or in any way transmitted or transferred.
- 8. "Date" means the exact date, month, and year, if ascertainable, or, if not, the best available approximation.
- 9. "Describe" or "identify," when referring to a person, means you must state the following:
 - a. The full name:
 - b. The present or last known residential address if known;
 - c. The present or last known residential and office telephone numbers if known;
 - d. The present occupation, job title, employer, and employer's

- address at the time of the event or period referred to in each particular interrogatory; and,
- e. In the case of any person other than an individual, identify the officer, employee or agent most closely connected with the subject matter of the interrogatory, and the officer who is responsible for supervision of that officer or employee.
- 10. "Describe" and "identify," when referring to a document, means you must state the following:
 - a. The nature (e.g., letter, handwritten note) of the document;
 - b. The title or heading that appears on the document;
 - c. The date of the document and the date of each addendum, supplement, or other addition or change;
 - d. The identity of the author and of the signer of the document, and of the person on whose behalf or at whose request or direction the document was prepared or delivered; and,
 - e. The present location of the document, and the name, address, position or title, and telephone number of the person or persons having custody of the document.
- 11. The word "and" means "and/or."
- 12. The word "or" means "or/and."
- 13. 'Electronic data" shall include electronic mail or "email" and files, databases, data files, metadata, program files, image files (e.g. JPEG, TIFF), voice-mail messages and files, text messages, temporary files, system-history files, deleted files, programs, or emails, backup files and archival tapes, website files, website information stored in textual, graphical, or audio format, cache files, cookies, metadata, data compilations from which information can be obtained through detection devices, including original and non-identical copies (whether non-identical because of notes made on copies or attached comments, annotations, marks, transmission notations, or highlighting of any kind) of mechanical, facsimile, electronic, magnetic, digital, or other programs (whether private, commercial, or work-in-progress), programming notes or instructions, activity listings of electronic mail receipts or transmittals, output resulting from the use of any software program (including word processing documents, spreadsheets, database files, contact management and personal information data, HTML files, Internet history files and preferences, presentations, charts, graphs and outlines, graphical image format ("GIF") files, calendar and scheduling information, computer system activity logs, arrays of information and all other information used or produced by any software), operating systems, source code of all types, programming languages, liners and compilers, peripheral drives, PDF files, PRF files, batch files, ASCII files, crosswalks, code keys, pull down tables, logs, file layouts and any and all miscellaneous files or file fragments, regardless of the media on which they reside

and regardless whether said electronic data consists of an active file, deleted file, or file fragment. "Electronic data" also includes any and all items stored on computer memory, hard disks, floppy disks, CD-ROM discs, Bernoulli Boxes and their equivalents, magnetic tapes of all types and kinds, microfiche, punched cards, punched tape, zip drives, RAR drives, ARJ drives, personal storage devices, memory sticks, USB storage devices, computer chips (including EPROM, PROM, ROM and RAM of any kind), or in any other vehicle for digital data storage or transmittal, including files, folder tabs, or containers, and labels appended to or associated with each original and each copy.

14. "Lincoln life insurance policy number T105766760" means the life insurance policy that was issued by Lincoln to Jerry L. Wallen that is made the basis of this lawsuit.

REQUESTS FOR PRODUCTION

- 1. Please produce all communications, including all electronic data, between Lincoln and Jerry Wallen between January 1, 2012 and present.
- 2. Please produce all communications, including all electronic data, between Lincoln and Judith Wallen from January 1, 2012 until present.
- 3. Please produce the complete file regarding Lincoln life insurance policy number T105766760 in the amount of \$1,000,000.00 in the name of Jerry Wallen.
- 4. Please produce a complete copy of Lincoln life insurance policy number T105766760 in the amount of \$1,000,000.00.
- 5. Please produce all lapse notices sent to Jerry Wallen by Lincoln.
- 6. Please produce copies of all reinstatement notices sent to Jerry Wallen while a customer of Lincoln.
- 7. Please produce all reinstatement offers offered by Lincoln to its customers from January 1, 2010 to December 31, 2015. Please include even if they were special, one-time-only offers by Lincoln to its customers.
- 8. Please produce a copy of Lincoln's official policy regarding the lapse and reinstatement of life insurance policies.
- 9. Please produce a copy of Lincoln's official "grace period" policy and/or guidelines. "Grace period" refers to the period of time following the lapse of a policy during which, under certain circumstances, an individual may reinstate the policy.
- 10. Please produce all of Lincoln's internal communications regarding Lincoln life insurance policy number T105766760 from January 1, 2015 until present.
- 11. Please produce receipts for all payments received by Lincoln from Jerry Wallen for Lincoln life insurance policy number T105766760 from January 1, 2014 until December 31, 2015.
- 12. Please produce any internal communications between Lincoln employees regarding life insurance policy number T105766760
- 13. Please produce any internal communications between Lincoln employees regarding Judith Wallen.
- 14. Please produce any internal communications between Lincoln employees regarding Jerry Wallen.

- 15. Please produce any documents containing instructions or guidelines regarding policy reinstatement, which have been in effect since 2012.
- 16. Please produce any documents containing instructions or guidelines regarding whether or not to make payment on a policy, which have been in effect since 2012.
- 17. Please produce any documents evidencing communications with Jerry Wallen since 2012 (e.g. phone logs, communications logs, etc.).
- 18. Please produce any recordings or transcripts of telephone calls between any Lincoln employee and Jerry Wallen since 2012.

IN THE	DISTRICT COURT
OF EL PASO	O COUNTY, TEXAS
IN COUNTY COUR	T AT LAW NUMBER D COUNTY, TEXAS
Judeth Wallen Plaintiff(s) Vs.))) Cause No
Lincoln Financial Defendant(s) Distributors, Inc.)
JUR	Y REQUEST

TOWL KEGOEST

Upon payment of the required jury fee and upon filing this written request for jury trial, as required by the El Paso Local Rule 3.05, request is herein made that the case be placed on the court's jury docket.

Attorney for Plaintiff/Defendant)

<u>0078363</u> | State Bar Number

Case 3:17-cv-00200-KC Document 1-1 Filed 06/28/17 Page 15 of 31

El Paso County - 210th District Court

CIVIL CASE INFORMATION SHEET

Filed 5/5/2017 3:44:06 PM

CAUSE NUMBER (FOR	CLERK USE ONLY):	Co	OURT (FOR CLERK US	Norma Favela Barcele
STYLED Ju	1:th Waller	V. Lincoln F.	inencial 2	District Cle Paso Cour JEI Paso Cour 2017DCV15
A civil case information sheet mu	ist be completed and submitted wh	en an original petition or applica	tion is filed to initiate	a new civil, family law, probate, or mental information should be the best available at
1. Contact information for perso	n completing case information sh	eet: Names of parties in	case;	Poson or entity completing sheet is:
Name: Chris Bell	Email: Chas Chellrose	Plaintiff(s)/Petitioner		
Address:	Telephone:	COM.		
10000 Memorul 1 Suite 750	Telephone: 713/300-51	5-8 Defendant(s)/Respon	dent(s):	Additional Parties in Child Support Case: Custodial Parent:
How for TX 770	Fax: 24 713/583-55	24 Distributor	s Inc.	Non-Custodial Parent:
Signalifre: Bell	State Bar No: 00783631	alla Line [Attach additional page as n	coln Financia	Presumed Father:
2. Indicate case type, or identify	the most important issue in the c		To the de parties	Fanily Law
Contract	Injury or Damage	Real Property	Märriage Relat	Post-judgment Actions
Debt/Contract Consumer/DTPA Debt/Contract Fraud/Misrepresentation	☐Construction ☐Defamation Malpractice	Condemnation Partition Quiet Title	Declare Marria Divorce With Childr	nge Void Modification—Custody Modification—Other
Other Debt/Contract: Foreclosure Home Equity—Expedited Other Foreclosure	☐ Accounting ☐ Legal ☐ Medical ☐ Other Professional Liability:	☐Trespass to Try Title ☐Other Property:	□No Childrer	☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐
Franchise Insurance Insurance Landlord/Tenant Non-Competition Partnership Other Contract:	☐ Motor Vehicle Accident ☐ Premises Product Liability ☐ Asbestos/Silica ☐ Other Product Liability List Product: ☐ Other Injury or Damage:	Related to Griminal Mutters Expunction Judgment Nisi Non-Disclosure Scizure/Forfeiture Writ of Habeas Corpus— Pre-indictment Other:	Other Family Enforce Foreign Judgment Habeas Corpu Name Change Protective Ord Removal of D of Minority Other:	gn
Employment Discrimination Retaliation Termination Workers' Compensation Other Employment:	Othe	Lawyer Discipline Perpetuate Testimony Securities/Stock Tortious Interference Other:		Rights Other Parent-Child:
Tax			Mental Health	
☐Tax Appraisal ☐Tax Delinquency ☐Other Tax	Probate/Wills/Intestate Adminit Dependent Administratio Independent Administrati	n on	□Guardianship—Adt □Guardianship—Mir □Mental Health □Other:	
	☐Garnis ☐Interpl ☐Licens ☐Manda	atory Judgment chment cader se unus udgment	☐ Prote ☐ Rece ☐ Sequ ☐ Term	estration porary Restraining Order/Injunction over
Als indicate damages sought (do: Less than \$100,000, including Less than \$100,000 and non-n Over \$100,000 but not more to the control of the con	than \$200,000	li osts, expenses, pre-judgment inte		

THE STATE OF TEXAS

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: "You have been sued. You may employ an attorney. If you, or your attorney, do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 a.m. on the Monday next following the expiration of twenty days after you were served this citation and petition, a default judgment may be taken against you."

TO: LINCOLN FINANCIAL DISTRIBUTORS, INC. D/B/A LINCOLN FINANCIAL GROUP, who may be served with process by serving its registered agent, CORPORATION SERVICE COMPANY AT 211 E. 7TH STREET, SUITE 620, AUSTIN, TX 78701-3218 or wherever he/she may be found

Greetings:

You are hereby commanded to appear by filing a written answer to the Plaintiff's Original Petition & Requests for Disclosure at or before ten o'clock A.M. of the Monday next after the expiration of twenty days after the date of service of this citation before the Honorable 210th Judicial District Court, El Paso County, Texas, at the Court House of said County in El Paso, Texas.

Said Plaintiff's Petition was filed in said court on this the 5th day of May, 2017 by Attorney at Law, CHRIS BELL, 10000 MEMORIAL DRIVE, SUITE 750, HOUSTON, TX 77024 in this case numbered **2017DCV1553** on the docket of said court, and styled:

JUDITH WALLEN VS LINCOLN FINANCIAL DISTRIBUTORS, INC. D/B/A LINCOLN FIANCIAL GROUP

The nature of Plaintiff's demand is fully shown by a true and correct copy of the Plaintiff's Original Petition & Requests for Disclosure accompanying this citation and made a part hereof.

The officer executing this writ shall promptly serve the same according to requirements of law, and the mandates thereof, and make due return as the law directs.

Issued and given under my hand and seal of said Court at El Paso, Texas, on this the 10th day of May, 2017.

CLERK OF THE COURT

NORMA FAVELA BARCELEAU

District Clerk
El Paso County Courthouse
500 E. San Antonio Ave, RM 103
El Paso, Texas 79901

Attest: NORMA FAVELA BARCELEAU District Clerk

El Paso County, Texas

MCC / OYVOID , Deputy

Erica Romero

the citation shall be served by the officer delivering to each defendant, in person, a true copy of the citation with the

date of delivery endorsed thereon and with a copy of the petition attached thereto."

RETURN

Came on hand onM., and executed in _ each of the within-named the date of delivery, toget Petition & Requests for D	defendants, in pers	son, a true panying tru	copy o	f this Cita	Cou ation, ha opy of t	nty, Texas, by delivering to aving first endorsed thereon
NAME	DATE			TIME		Place, and Course and Distance
	MONTH DAY	YEAR I	lour	Min.	M	From Court House
					· · · · · · ·	
			•			
magan common common of the second of the						
And not executed as to the	ne defendant,					
-						
and the cause of failure to	·					
						ng
FEES—SERVING	cop \$		·····			Sheriff
						County, Texas
Total	\$	Ву				, Deputy
*******	• . •				,	
•		FICATE C				
I do hereby certif	y that I delivered to		•			
		on	the	day	of	
20, ato'cl	ockm. this cop	of this ins	strumen	ıt.		
						, Sheriff/Agent
			19			County, Texas
•	/	Ву				, Deputy/Agent
SUBSCRIBED AND SWO	RN TO BEFORE M	E ON THE	}	_ DAY O	F	, 20
(SI	CAL)					
			NOT	ARY PUI	BLIC, S	TATE OF TEXAS

Case 3:17-cv-00200-KC Document 1-1 Filed 06/28/17 Page 18 of 31

El Paso County - 210th District Court

Filed 5/24/2017 4:16:08 PM

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF EL PASO COUNTY, TEXAS 210th DISTRICT COURT

District Clerk El Paso County

Norma Favela Barceleau

Judith Wallen

2017DCV1553

VS

Cause No. 2017DCV1553

Lincoln Financial Distributors, Inc.

ORDER OF COURT SETTING

The above reference case is set as follows:

<u>Date</u>	<u> Time</u>	<u>Description</u>	l
06/14/2017	2:15 PM	Status Conference	ı

Dear Counsel:

The Court requires that counsel appear in person or arrangements be made for local counsel to be retained with authority to appear before the Court to obtain the requested relief. If local counsel is retained to appear on behalf of any party; a formal written entry of appearance will be required to be filed with the Court in accordance with Rule "8" Texas Rules Civil Procedure (TRCP 8). All future notice(s) of Court settings will be sent to counsel entered of record as attorney in charge per TRCP 8 (supra). The attorney in charge is required to be present at all scheduled hearings. If the attorney in charge fails to appear, the case is subject to dismissal (see below) or sanctions being imposed in accordance with law. Furthermore you are required to present competent evidence to support your claim.

If you do not appear in court on the day of your hearing this case will be Dismissed For Want of Prosecution or pursuant to the Court's inherent authority.

All scheduled hearings will NOT be subject to continuance, cancellation, or reset by agreement (i.e. Rule 11, etc) unless otherwise ordered by the Court or by leave of Court.

If the above reference case has already been settled, tried or dismissed, please notify the Court Coordinator (Sandra C. Aguirre: (915) 546-2130) upon receipt of this order.

Signed and entered on this the 24th day of May, 2017.

If you know of an attorney involved in this case and not listed, please provide him/her with a copy of this setting.

Chris Bell Fax: Chris Bell 713-583-5524 713-583-5524 El Paso County - 210th District Court

Filed 6/8/2017 8:27:55 PM

Norma Favela Barceleau

District Clerk

El Paso County

2017DCV1553

THE STATE OF TEXAS

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: "You have been sued. You may employ an attorney. If you, or your attorney, do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 a.m. on the Monday next following the expiration of twenty days after you were served this citation and petition, a default judgment may be taken against you."

TO: LINCOLN FINANCIAL DISTRIBUTORS, INC. D/B/A LINCOLN FINANCIAL GROUP, who may be served with process by serving its registered agent, CORPORATION SERVICE COMPANY AT 211 E. 7TH STREET, SUITE 620, AUSTIN, TX 78701-3218 or wherever he/she may be found

Greetings:

You are hereby commanded to appear by filing a written answer to the Plaintiff's Original Retition & Requests for Disclosure at or before ten o'clock A.M. of the Monday next after the expiration of wenty days after the date of service of this citation before the Honorable 210th Judicial District Court. El Paso County, Texas, at the Court House of said County in El Paso, Texas.

Said Plaintiff's Petition was filed in sald court on this the 5th day of May, 2017 by Attorney at Law, CHRIS BELL, 10000 MEMORIAL DRIVE, SUITE 750, HOUSTON, TX 77024 in this case numbered **2017DCV1553** on the docket of said court, and styled:

JUDITH WALLEN VS LINCOLN FINANCIAL DISTRIBUTORS, INC. D/B/A LINCOLN FIANCIAL GROUP

The nature of Plaintiff's demand is fully shown by a true and correct copy of the Plaintiff's Original Petition & Requests for Disclosure accompanying this citation and made a part hereof.

The officer executing this writ shall promptly serve the same according to requirements of law, and the mandates thereof, and make due return as the law directs.

Issued and given under my hand and seal of said Court at El Paso, Texas, on this the 10th day of May, 2017,

CLERK OF THE COURT

Rule 106:

NORMA FAVELA BARCELEAU

District Clerk
El Paso County Courthouse
500 E. San Antonio Ave, RM 103
El Paso, Texas 79901

Attest: NORMA FAVELA BARCELEAU District Clerk

Erica Romero

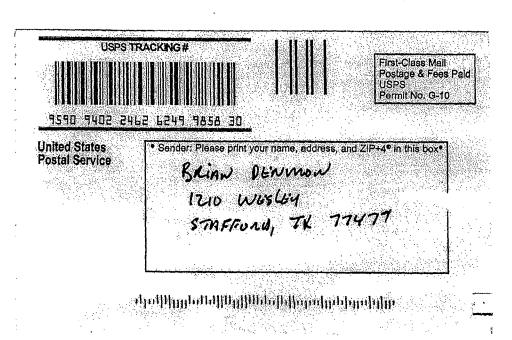
Deputy

by the officer delivering to each defendant, in person, a true copy of the citation with the

date of the livery endorsed thereon and with a copy of the petition attached thereto."

RETURN

Came on hand onM., and executed ineach of the within-named	19 H	ay of	M	m		20	7 , at //:60 o'c	lock
M., and executed in _	THAN	ris -				Cou	inty, Texas, by deli	vering to
each of the within-named the date of delivery, toget	defendant	s, in per	son, a tru	ie copy	of this C	itation, h	aving first endorse	d thereon
Petition & Requests for D	isclosure a	e accom	owing tin	nes and	l places,	to-wit:	ine Flamin s Ongi	Iai
•				·				
LINCOLN PINAME	MONTH	DATE DAY	YEAR	Hour	TIME Min.	.М.	Place, and Course a	
DISTAILUTORS DISL		31	2017	10	18	MM	2116.74	Svile 622
Lincoln Finnacul							AUSTIN, TI	1 78701
Grup by strung					 			
CONFORMTION SERVICE				 				
Company				ļ			<u> </u>	
	- 			·!				
And not executed as to the	ne defenda	ınt,						
								····
the diligence used in find	ing said de	efendant,	being _		····	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		
and the cause of failure to	o execute	this proc	ess is: _					
and the information recei	ved as to t	he wher	eabouts	of the s	aid de f er	ndant, be	ing	
FEES-SERVING	сор	\$			Pin	in New		Sheriff -
						tarns	Count	v. Texas
Total		\$	E	3v BA	inn Di	brum	Count	. Dent ify
		·		· /				
		OFDT!		OF 5	ELIVER	V		
							Nichola I.	
I do hereby certif	y that I de	livered to	CIM	JUN	PINA	MINU	Mung	O JNC.
20 <u>17</u> , at 16:18 o'cl	ock <u>K</u> m.	this cop	y of this	instrum	ent.		0/201	117
			_1:	MIAN	DEWI	Mon So	1417 9/301	eriff/Agent
					A 1574	MIS	Cour	ntv. Texas
			Ву		mi d	em	, Dep	outy/Agent
				0	1/1/2	ノヘ	•	
SUBSCRIBED AND SWO				не 🔰	DAY	OF _	frul	_, 20
(SI	EAD ITA TAY My Notary ID A xpires Novemi	/LOR # 7789315			M	wh	- Def	JZ
To Manual Comment		-		N	OTARY P	PUBLIC,	STATE OF TEXAS	;



SENDER: COMPLETE THIS SECTION	COMPLETE THIS SECTION ON E	PELIVERY
Complete items 1, 2, and 3. Print your name and address on the reverse so that we can return the card to you.	A. Signature X Chris Cush	☐ Agent ☐ Addressee
Attach this card to the back of the malipiece, or on the front if space permits.	B. Received by (Printed Name)	C. Date of Delivery MAY 9 1 2017
1. Article Addressed to: (Lukely) Financia L Districtiveness Taxo Olala Cindla	D. le delivery address different from If YES, enter delivery address b	
Francial GADUP by SLEVING .		
Accustoned August Confidence Service Company 211 6.74h Suite 620		
AUSTIN, 7x 78701		
9590 9402 2462 6249 9858 30	Service Type Adult Signature Adult Signature Restricted Delivery Certified Mail® Certified Mail® Certified Mail®	Priority Mail Express® Registered Mail The Restricts Delivery Receipt Receipt for
2. Article Number (Transfer from service label) 7014 1820 0000 8325 8088	☐ Collect on Delivery ☐ Collect on Delivery Restricted Delivery eured Mail sured Mail Restricted Delivery ver \$500)	Merchandise ☐ Signature Confirmation ☐ Signature Confirmation Restricted Delivery

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF EL PASO COUNTY, TEXAS 210th DISTRICT COURT

Judith Wallen

vs

Cause No. 2017DCV1553

Lincoln Financial Distributors, Inc.

AMENDED ORDER OF COURT SETTING

The above reference case is set as follows:

Date Date	Time	<u>Description</u>
CANCELLED 06/14/2017	2:15 PM	Status Conference
07/12/2017	2:30 PM	Scheduling and Status Conference

Dear Counsel:

The Court requires that counsel appear in person or arrangements be made for local counsel to be retained with authority to appear before the Court to obtain the requested relief. If local counsel is retained to appear on behalf of any party; a formal written entry of appearance will be required to be filed with the Court in accordance with Rule "8" Texas Rules Civil Procedure (TRCP 8). All future notice(s) of Court settings will be sent to counsel entered of record as attorney in charge per TRCP 8 (supra). The attorney in charge is required to be present at all scheduled hearings. If the attorney in charge fails to appear, the case is subject to dismissal (see below) or sanctions being imposed in accordance with law. Furthermore you are required to present competent evidence to support your claim.

If you do not appear in court on the day of your hearing this case will be Dismissed For Want of Prosecution or pursuant to the Court's inherent authority.

All scheduled hearings will NOT be subject to continuance, cancellation, or reset by agreement (i.e. Rule 11, etc) unless otherwise ordered by the Court or by leave of Court.

If the above reference case has already been settled, tried or dismissed, please notify the Court Coordinator (Sandra C. Aguirre: (915) 546-2130) upon receipt of this order.

Signed and entered on this the 13th day of June, 2017.

District Judge 210th District Court

If you know of an attorney involved in this case and not listed, please provide him/her with a copy of this setting.

Chris Bell
Fax: Chris Bell

713-583-5524 713-583-5524

Case 3:17-cv-00200-KC Document 1-1 Filed 06/28/17 Page 24 of 31

El Paso County - 210th District Court

Filed 6/15/2017 2:09:15 PM

Norma Favela Barceleau

District Clerk

El Paso County

2017DCV1553

CAUSE NO. 2017DCV1553

§	IN THE DISTRICT COURT
§	
§	
§	at.
§	210 th JUDICIAL DISTRICT
§	
§	
§	
§	
§	
§	EL PASO COUNTY, TEXAS
	<i>\$\to\$</i> \$\to\$

DEFENDANT'S ORIGINAL ANSWER

Defendant The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company ("Lincoln National"), erroneously denominated "Lincoln Financial Distributors, Inc. d/b/a Lincoln Financial Group" in Plaintiff's Original Petition and Requests for Disclosure (the "Petition"), files this original answer to the Petition and states:

ANSWER

1. <u>General Denial</u>. Subject to such admissions and stipulations as may be made at the time of trial, Lincoln National denies generally and specially the material allegations contained in the Petition and demands strict proof thereof in accordance with the requirements of the laws of this State.

REQUESTED RELIEF

- 2. <u>Prayer</u>. Lincoln National respectfully requests the following relief:
 - (a) That Plaintiff take nothing by reason of her suit;
 - (b) That Lincoln National recover its court costs; and

(c) That Lincoln National have all such other and further relief, both general and special, at law and in equity, to which it may show itself justly entitled.

Respectfully submitted,

By: /s/ Andrew C. Whitaker
Andrew C. Whitaker
State Bar No. 21273600
andrew.whitaker@figdav.com
Roshanak Khosravighasemabadi
State Bar No. 24048587
Rosh.Khosravi@figdav.com

FIGARI + DAVENPORT, LLP 901 Main Street, Suite 3400 Dallas, Texas 75202 (214) 939-2000 (214) 939-2090 (telecopy)

David S. Jeans
State Bar No. 10597400
djeans@rmjfirm.com
RAY, MCCHRISTIAN & JEANS, P.C.
5822 Cromo
El Paso, Texas 79912
(915) 832-7200
(915) 832-7333 (telecopy)

ATTORNEYS FOR DEFENDANT THE LINCOLN NATIONAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

This is to certify that, on June 15, 2017, a true and correct copy of the foregoing document has been served via <u>efile.txcourts.gov</u> on the following: Mr. Chris Bell and Mr. Benjamin Harwood Rose, Bell Rose, 10000 Memorial Drive, Suite 750, Houston, Texas 77024.

/s/ Andrew C. Whitaker
Andrew C. Whitaker

Filed 6/26/2017 12:42 PM

Norma Favela Barceleau

District Clerk

El Paso County

2017DCV1553

No. 2017-DCV-1553

JUDITH WALLEN,	§	IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF
	§	
Plaintiff,	§	
	§	
VS	§	
	§	
THE LINCOLN NATIONAL LIFE INSURANCE	§	EL PASO COUNTY, TEXAS
COMPANY AND FIRST PENN-PACIFIC	§	
LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY	§	
	§	
Defendants.	§	210 TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

PLAINTIFF'S FIRST AMENDED PETITION

Plaintiff, JUDITH WALLEN, files this first amended petition.

1. Discovery is intended to be conducted under Level 2.

I. JURISDICTION & VENUE

- 2. The Court has jurisdiction over the lawsuit because the amount in controversy exceeds this Court's minimum jurisdictional requirements. Plaintiff seeks damages of more than \$1,000,000.00.
- 3. Venue is proper in El Paso County under Texas Civil Practice & Remedies Code §15.002 because almost all of the events giving rise to the claim occurred in El Paso County.

II. PARTIES

- 4. Plaintiff, **JUDITH WALLEN** ("Mrs. Wallen"), is a resident of El Paso County, Texas. The last three digits of her Texas Driver's License are 639 and the last three digits of her Social Security Number are 397.
- 5. Defendant, **THE LINCOLN NATIONAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY**, is an Indiana corporation licensed to do business in Texas. It can be served with process by serving its attorney of record, Andrew C. Whitaker.

6. Defendant, **FIRST PENN-PACIFIC LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY**, is an Indiana corporation licensed to do business in Texas. It can be served with process by serving its attorney of record, Andrew C. Whitaker.

III. FACTS

- 7. Jerry L. Wallen ("Mr. Wallen"), the deceased husband of Plaintiff, Judith Wallen, was the insured under life insurance policy number T105766760. In 2015, the policy lapsed. Based on information and belief, while still within either the state-mandated grace period or Defendants' standard and customary grace period, Mr. Wallen sent the required premium payment of \$326.91. Defendants deposited the payment.
- 8. Defendants did not reinstate the policy as is customarily done if an insured makes the required premium payment during the grace period. Instead, on September 2, 2015, Defendants advised Mr. Wallen that his payment had been received but that "our acceptance of this payment does not currently provide you with any insurance coverage under this policy."
- 9. On September 4, 2015, Defendants sent another letter to Mr. Wallen advising that certain information would have to be received for the underwriting process to continue. Mr. Wallen died suddenly from a heart attack on September 22, 2015. Mrs. Wallen filed a claim to collect the life insurance policy that her husband, shortly before his death, had told her was in effect. However, Defendants refused payment, claiming the life insurance policy had lapsed and had not been reinstated. Defendants did not return Mr. Wallen's premium payment of \$326.91 until after he had died.

IV. CAUSES OF ACTION

Count 1 - Breach of the Duty of Good Faith and Fair Dealing

10. Plaintiff hereby incorporates by reference the allegations contained in paragraphs 1 through 8 above as though fully set forth herein.

- 11. Mr. Wallen was the Owner and Mrs. Wallen the beneficiary under an insurance contract sold by Defendants, which gave rise to a duty of good faith and fair dealing.
- 12. Defendants breached its duties by not reinstating the Policy when Defendants knew or should have known that there was no reasonable basis for not reinstating the policy.
 - 13. The breach of duty by Defendants proximately caused injury to Plaintiff.
- 14. Plaintiff seeks unliquidated damages within the jurisdictional limits of this Court from Defendant.

Count 2 - Breach of Contract

- 15. Plaintiff hereby incorporates by reference the allegations contained in paragraphs 1 through 8 above as though fully set forth herein.
- Mr. Wallen contracted for the Policy with Defendants for the benefit of his wife, Mrs. Wallen. Defendants failed to perform its contract as agreed. Defendants unilaterally refused to reinstate the Policy without justification despite Plaintiff's payment of the premium Defendants advised was required for reinstatement of the Policy.
- 17. The actions of Defendants constitute a breach of contract, for which Plaintiff now seeks actual damages.

Count 3 – Promissory Estoppel

- 18. Plaintiff hereby incorporates by reference the allegations contained in paragraphs 1 through 8 above as though fully set forth herein.
- 19. Defendants routinely ignored "lapse dates" and deadlines for payment. In fact, it would have special reinstatement offers whereby if the full premium was paid, the reinstatement was effective when the premium was received by the company. By its habit of business, its acts and its custom not to require prompt payment, Defendants induced an honest belief in the mind of Mr. Wallen that strict compliance with a stipulation for punctual payment of premiums would not be

insisted upon. Therefore, Defendants waived the right to not reinstate the policy in 2015 when Mr. Wallen did exactly what he was supposed to do to reinstate the policy.

- 20. Mr. Wallen reasonably and substantially relied on the previous acts of Defendants to both his and Mrs. Wallen's detriment.
 - 21. Mr. Wallen's reliance on the previous acts was foreseeable by Defendants.
 - 22. Injustice can be avoided only by enforcing Defendants' contractual obligations.
- 23. Plaintiff seeks unliquidated damages within the jurisdictional limits of this Court from Defendants,

Count 4 - Declaratory Judgment

- 24. Pursuant to Texas Civil Practices and Remedies Code Chapter 37, Plaintiff requests this Court to declare her rights and status with respect to the Policy.
- 25. Plaintiff is entitled to recover attorney's fees incurred in the prosecution of this matter. Tex. Civ. Prac. & Rem. Code §37.009.

V. PUNITIVE DAMAGES

- 26. Defendants' actions were intentional, knowing and fraudulent, and involved such an extreme degree of risk and disregard for Plaintiff as to constitute malice resulting in injury and harm to Plaintiff. Defendants' acts and omissions as alleged in this Petition were willful. Plaintiff is entitled to damages, both past and future, and exemplary and punitive damages from Defendants.
 - 27. Defendants acted in bad faith to the detriment of Plaintiff.
- 28. Plaintiff requests that damages, punitive damages, pre-judgment interest and costs of Court be awarded to Plaintiff against Defendants.

VI. ATTORNEY'S FEES AND COSTS

29. As a result of the wrongful acts of Defendants and the misrepresentations of Defendants as set out herein, Plaintiff was required to retain the undersigned counsel to protect

Plaintiff's interests and has agreed to pay reasonable and necessary attorney's fees and costs to said

counsel. Plaintiff is entitled to recover reasonable attorney's fees and costs under her claim for

breach of contract and the other causes of action that allow direct or indirect recovery of attorney's

fees and costs.

VII. JURY DEMAND

30. Plaintiff requests and demands a jury trial and the required fee has been paid.

IX. PRAYER

31. WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, Judith Wallen, respectfully requests that, after a jury

trial on the merits, the Court award Plaintiff the following relief:

a. Direct and consequential damages against Defendants;

b. Exemplary damages as a result of the intentional, malicious and culpable behavior

of Defendants;

c. Statutory and special damages as set forth above;

d. A declaratory judgment;

e. Attorney's fees;

f. Prejudgment and post judgment interest where allowed by law and in the

maximum amounts permitted by law; and

g. All other relief, at law or in equity, to which Plaintiff may otherwise be entitled.

Respectfully submitted,

BELL ROSE

Chris Bell

Texas Bar No. 00783631

Email: Chris@BellRoseLaw.com

10000 Memorial Drive, Suite 750

Benjamin Harwood Rose

Texas Bar No. 24079243

Email: Ben@BellRoseLaw.com Houston, Texas 77024

Phone: 713-300-5158 Fax: 713-583-5524

Attorneys for Plaintiff